

TOKEN TOPICS

May, 1975
Issue #55

of the
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

ROBERT RITTERBAND
Editor

MAY MEETING: On Sunday afternoon, May 18, members and their guests will assemble one more time at the home of Bob and Molly Ritterband, 6576 Colgate Avenue, in the West Wilshire district of Los Angeles. If you haven't been there before and need exact directions, the phone number is 938-4504. With that whopping big 25th A.V.A. convention coming so soon, it is expected that this meeting will draw a large crowd interested in the further details, as well as our usual super "token swap" opportunities. Same old hours-- 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

IN MARCH: Our previous session on March 16, at favorite hostess Elaine Willahan's home, found the following fine members present: Steve Alpert, Roland Atwood, Robert Carter, Andy Crusen, Les Hawthorne, Robert Kubach, Steve Lipshie, James Manning, Phillip Pearson, Robert Ritterband, Kenneth Smith, Kirk Smith, Paul Thompson, George Ticknor, and of course Elaine/W. And if you are not listed here, please know that we all hope you can make it next time!

NEW MEMBERS: With this bulletin we present two newcomers to our fellowship. First is Richard Hyde of Santa Ana, who represents the famed Medallie Art Co. of Connecticut here in Southern California. Dick is a real nice guy, thanks no doubt to his charming wife, Barbara, noted medals sculptress. We want to see both of them at meetings soon. The other is Joel Reznick, of Chicago and such places. He is the current vice president of A.V.A., and though we won't have a chance to greet him and family until August, we are surely pleased to add his name now to our great list.

NEW ROSTER: Speaking of fine folks, we offer a surprise on the other side of this sheet. For the first time in a full four years, you will find a list of all the members currently in good standing. There are 65 happy collectors here!

We had wanted to list eight other folks, but had some problems. For one thing, our long-time member Harley Babbitz has resigned, and we will miss him. Then there are a few others who never did respond to Elaine's dues notices, and so must be dropped now. Your \$2 annual contribution to our postage fund represents a good bargain, so sometime soon we hope to reinstate the following: Corinne Black, Nyle Edwards, Larry Elman, Jeff Robbins, Frank Schwartz, Hagan Stewart and Elaine Swanson.

PROMINENT PUBLICITY: During March friends across the land of our member, F. Gordon Smith, were pleased to see an illustrated write-up of his collecting hobbies published in venerable "Grit" magazine. With only minor factual errors, the story told of Gordon's extensive activities in transportation tokens, dog licenses and other items. (Remember that he was A.V.A. president in 1960-63.) His dog tag collection now numbers over 3000 pieces from all parts of the world, including one issued in Holland way back in 1799. When you know that "Grit" is read by not less than nine million families, you can appreciate that once again Gordon has done a tremendous service for vecturists and collectors everywhere.

ENCLOSURE: Included this month is a payment envelope for your convenience in becoming an "Early Bird" registrant at A.V.A.'s August convention here. Naturally all Vecturists interested in enhancing their collections will be on hand for this great conclave. In addition to a fun party, your chances to buy, sell and swap tokens are absolutely unlimited. So because you are coming anyway, why not take advantage of our early registration discount and save that 10%, before July 15? You can also save your club officers some headaches if you handle this even sooner, as we are trying to finance the entire operation on a volunteer basis. (Suggestion to localites: If at all possible, please bring your payment to this May meeting.)

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER --- May 1, 1975

109	ALBUM, Stephen	P.O. Box 4039	Berkeley, Calif. 94704
134	ALLRED, John	1401 W. Whittier Blvd.	Montebello, Calif. 90640
118	ALPERT, Jeff	11106 National Blvd.	Los Angeles, Calif. 90064
119	ALPERT, Stephen	11106 National Blvd.	Los Angeles, Calif. 90064
1	ATWOOD, Roland	2818 Colorado Ave.	Santa Monica, Calif. 90404
64	BARNES, John	P.O. Box 25031	Los Angeles, Calif. 90025
129	BARNES, Virginia	P.O. Box 25031	Los Angeles, Calif. 90025
84	BARNETT, Floyd	5425 Portland Ave., S.	Minneapolis, Minn. 55417
40	CARTER, Robert	2232 N. Kays Ave.	South San Gabriel, Calif. 91770
123	CHAVALLIA, Robert	Station A, Box U	Auburn, Calif. 95603
117	CORSON, Allen	P.O. Box 38-261	Miami, Florida 33138
46	CRUSEN, Andrew	604 S. Keenan Ave.	Los Angeles, Calif. 90022
3	CUTLER, Edward	2929 W. 190th Street	Redondo Beach, Calif. 90278
17	DIMICHAEL, Daniel	P.O. Box 485	Coatesville, Pa. 19320
67	DUKE, Donald	P.O. Box 8136	San Marino, Calif. 91108
130	FITZGERALD, Gordon	15530 Le Marsh Street	Mission Hills, Calif. 91340
16	FREIBERG, Ralph	674 Ashbury Street	San Francisco, Calif. 94117
21	FRISBEE, R. K. "Toby"	211 King Street	Denver, Colorado 80219
19	GALLAGHER, William	8614 Flower Street	Paramount, Calif. 90723
101	GOULD, Maurice	P.O. Box 1500	Tustin, Calif. 90723
102	HALPERN, Sol	1032 N. Screenland Drive	Burbank, Calif. 91505
65	HAWTHORNE, Leslie	3742 1/2 Griffith View Drive	Los Angeles, Calif. 90039
91	HINDE, Ralph	225-30 106th Avenue	Jamaica, New York 11429
52	HOUSE, Amos	1975 Ninth Street	La Verne, Calif. 91750
135	HYDE, Richard	10892 Arroyo Avenue	Santa Ana, Calif. 92795
113	JOSEPH, Syd	870 S. Hudson Street	Denver, Colorado 80222
103	KAPPEN, Charles	2201 Peachtree Lane	San Jose, Calif. 95128
105	KRUSE, Henry	3511 Sixth Avenue	San Diego, Calif. 92103
47	KUBACH, Robert	2130 Fairpark Avenue	Los Angeles, Calif. 90041
125	LEE, Arthur	2416 Nearcliff Street	Torrance, Calif. 90505
98	LIPSHIE, Steve	5270 1/2 Bellingham Ave.	North Hollywood, Calif. 91607
110	MACK, Nathaniel	P.O. Box 395	Goose Creek, South Car. 29445
61	MANNING, James	3740 Greenbrier Road	Long Beach, Calif. 90808
80	McCLUNG, Ed	P.O. Box 2507	North Hollywood, Calif. 91602
2	MILLER, Edrick	3257 Idaho Lane	Costa Mesa, Calif. 92626
107	MUELLER, Charles	3746 S. East Avenue	Berwyn, Illinois 60402
97	NICHOLLS, Harry	United Bank of Arizona	Yuma, Arizona 85364
4	NICOLOSI, John	3002 Galindo Street	Oakland, Calif. 94601
132	PEARSON, Phillip	11937 Darlington Ave.	Los Angeles, Calif. 90049
136	REZNICK, Joel	1818 Apache Lane	Mount Pleasant, Ill. 60056
5	RITTERBAND, Robert	6576 Colgate Avenue	Los Angeles, Calif. 90048
131	RODGERS, Charles	P.O. Box 66531	Los Angeles, Calif. 90066
9	ROHRER, Bernard "Duke"	68 W. 51st Street	Long Beach, Calif. 90805
35	ROSELINSKY, Frank	13213 Aetna Street	Van Nuys, Calif. 91401
51	SAFFORD, Dwight	4043- 42nd Street	San Diego, Calif. 92105
54	SHERMAN, Norman	4295 Marina Drive	Santa Barbara, Calif. 93105
22	SHUPE, Waldo	1071 Cassingham Road	Columbus, Ohio 43209
72	SMITH, Arthur	6221 Montecito Blvd.	Santa Rosa, Calif. 95405
73	SMITH, Claire	6 Bahia Lane	Oceanside, Calif. 92054
71	SMITH, Edward	6221 Montecito Blvd.	Santa Rosa, Calif. 95405
6	SMITH, F. Gordon	6 Bahia Lane	Oceanside, Calif. 92054
82	SMITH, Irene	6221 Montecito Blvd.	Santa Rosa, Calif. 95405
70	SMITH, Jack	RR #1, Box 91-B	New Palestine, Indiana 46163
18	SMITH, Kenneth	328 Avenue "F"	Redondo Beach, Calif. 90277
116	SMITH, Kirk	328 Avenue "F"	Redondo Beach, Calif. 90277
34	SNYDER, Franklin	2418 S. Baldwin Ave.	Arcadia, Calif. 91006
7	SUPER, Michael	5912 Franklin Ave.	Baltimore, Maryland 21207
69	TARGONSKY, Paul	23 Harrison Street	Meriden, Conn. 06450
106	THOMPSON, Paul	5406 La Presa Avenue	San Gabriel, Calif. 91776
12	TICKNOR, George	1745 1/2 Federal Avenue	Los Angeles, Calif. 90025
74	VELDMAN, Robert	P.O. Box 1083	Sparks, Nevada 89431
133	WALDORF, Duffy	5408 Amigo Avenue	Tarzana, Calif. 91356
100	WEAMER, Raymond	3570 Ocean View Ave.	Los Angeles, Calif. 90066
42	WILLAHAN, Elaine	516 W. 99th Street	Los Angeles, Calif. 90044
112	WOLF, Robert	9442 Castlegate Drive	Huntington Beach, Calif. 92640

TOKEN TOPICS

July, 1975
Issue #56

of the
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

ROBERT RITTERBAND
Editor

JULY MEETING: It's time now for another bi-monthly session of the B.L.O.T.C.O.E., which of course stands for, "Best Little Old Tokens Club On Earth".

On Sunday afternoon, July 20, we will meet again at the home of Elaine Willahan, #16 W. 99th Street in Los Angeles. It is very close to the Century Blvd. off-ramp of the Harbor Freeway, you know, and her warm hospitality is not to be missed.

Remember that this will be our final club meeting before the grand conclave of all AVA-ers here next month, so there will be plenty to talk about and plenty to hear about. And as always there will be plenty of collectors on hand with plenty of tokens to offer for your collection. Surely all these are plenty of good reasons for every local token collector to be present.

LAST TIME: For our club meeting on Sunday, May 18, the Ritterbands served as the hosts, with a goodish turn-out of hobbyists to enjoy the afternoon.

In addition to Bob and Molly R., the attendance list included Steve Alpert, John and Virginia Barnes, Bob Carter, Bob Kubach, Edrick and Patricia Miller, Philip Pearson, Ken, Eleanor and Kirk Smith, Paul Thompson, George Ticknor, and finally Virginia B's mother, Mrs. Rogers. Late arrivals (very late) were two club officers who shall be nameless... but by then no one was still on hand, not even the hosts!

A sample print of the new convention souvenir bus token was passed around for all to study, and the souvenir mirrors were also discussed. Bob Carter, as chairman for convention exhibits, told of his plans and showed the award memento which will be given to each exhibitor. It is hoped that every member possible will be ready to display some facet of his token holdings for our convention visitors.

THE BIG ONE: As they said of Paul Revere, "hardly a man is now alive" who doesn't remember that in just five more weeks there will come the biggest and one of the finest gatherings in all of transportation tokens history. For its 25th annual convention the A.V.A. will meet right here in Los Angeles, over the weekend of August 15-17. Possibly due to the extra drawing power of the American Numismatic just a few days later, registrations for our event are coming in now at a very satisfactory pace. Is YOUR name among these registrants?

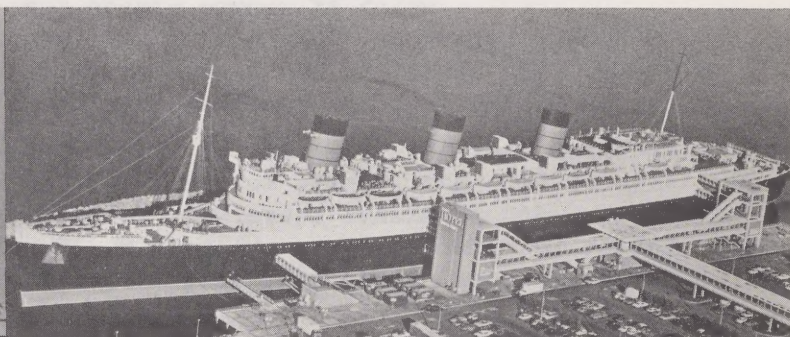
As these lines are being written, the A.V.A. registrations have already passed the count of 65 people. That was the paid total at our Disneyland convention in 1966, which set a record still unequalled. What this year's final count will be is anyone's guess. Again we ask if you are listed among the conventioners now?

Hobbyists have signed in thus far from all over the land: Florida, New England, the Midwest, Down South, Canada, and even Alaska. Oddly enough the California registrations are slimmer than one would expect, yet here we are with the largest number of A.V.A. members in any State. Maybe the local folks are going to wait until the last moment, and pass up that 10% discount for "Early Birds". Or maybe they will decide to pay just the \$1.75 entrance fee, and skip the wonderful features and bargains included in the full registration.

Two things to keep in mind: #1) You don't have to be an A.V.A. member to register for this gathering and enjoy every bit of it. #2) Although a few of our member-dealers have asked for reserved tables, and will pay a small amount for their use, still there will be unlimited swaps and deals continuing hour after hour among many individuals. Any collector who has the least interest in enhancing his holdings must surely be here to take part in the opportunities offered. And we do mean YOU!

TOKENS TREASURY . . .

Plus Plenty Of Pleasure For Your Entire Family



Theme Building at
L.A. International
Airport, only mile
from hotel. (Free
24-hour transfers.)

Great ship for
our Grand Tour.
Special tokens
for charter bus
to Long Beach.

This gathering, with **TOKEN COLLECTORS** from all parts of the United States and Canada will be on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 15-17, 1975. Convention hotel is the Ramada Inn/Airport, 9620 Airport Blvd., Los Angeles 90009. Reasonable rates here with plenty of free parking. (Also it is just one block to headquarters hotel for the 84th A.N.A. convention a few days later.) Our Life Member #1, Roland C. Atwood, and charter president Max M. Schwartz, will both be on hand to greet all Vecturists. Your hosts for this conclave, the California Association of Token Collectors, really want YOU to be here with us too.

Remember: An encore session will be held Friday morning, August 22, during the A.N.A. meeting. We will be proud to present Curly Mitchell and Ken Smith in an excellent new program about George Francis Train, famous early American and British transportation engineer and builder.

Admission to this fine added event is just one more part of your A.V.A. registration.

Whatever kinds of Tokens you collect-- U.S. transportation, foreign, parking, car wash, trade checks or ??? -- you will not find a better chance than at this meeting to buy, sell or swap.

DON'T YOU MISS IT!

Registration for the 25th Annual Convention of A.V.A. includes:

- * Convention badge and ribbon
- * All sessions at Ramada Inn/Airport
- * Annual banquet and entertainment
- * Token auction, with many lots
- * Handsome A.V.A. advertising mirror by EM Creations
- * Round-trip charter bus to visit "The Queen" at Long Beach
- * Beautiful new souvenir token for bus ride
- * Extensive guided tour through "Queen Mary"
- * Encore meeting during A.N.A. to hear all about George Francis Train
- * Colorful printed program
- * Many special surprises

All of this for only \$15.50, with a buck-and-a-half discount for "Early Bird" registrations before July 15.

For further information, write or phone:

ROBERT M. RITTERBAND
General Chairman

6576 Colgate Avenue, Los Angeles 90048

Phones: (213) 870-7305 (Days)
938-4504 (Eves.)

TOKEN TOPICS

September 1975

Issue #57

of the

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

ROBERT RITTERBAND

Editor

THIS TIME: Variety is often the spice of our meeting spots. This month we all will gather at the new hillside home of John and Virginia Barnes in Sherman Oaks, on Sunday afternoon, September 21st, at the usual 1:30 or so.

Driving directions given us are: From northbound SAN DIEGO FREEWAY, use Ventura Blvd. off-ramp to Sepulveda Blvd. Return back on Sepulveda about three blocks to Valley Vista and make a left turn. After two blocks turn right onto Stone Canyon, and come up two blocks to Pacheco. The address is 4021 Pacheco Drive, on the south-west corner of Encanto Drive. OR--- From the westbound VENTURA FREEWAY, use Van Nuys Blvd. off-ramp, and turn left to Ventura Blvd. Turn right on Ventura to Kester Ave., and make a left turn on Kester to Valley Vista. Turn right on Valley Vista, then left onto Stone Canyon, and so on. And if you insist on getting lost, try calling the Barnes' at 783-6745 for even more exciting instructions!

Car pooling is a possibility. Call Willahan (755-2708) or Ritterband (938-4504) for details. Most of all, don't miss being there for one more great swap session.

EXPANDED MAILING: Originally we planned to have this month's bulletin into everyone's hands by the first of September. However our convention last month for the A.V.A. turned out to be such a whopping big event that the final bookkeeping and "put away" on it has taken many more hours than we expected.

Many of you will recall that at least three times in recent years our September issue was mailed to every AVA-er, whether a member of our own club or not. The idea was to bring each collector some quick news of the annual conclave during the extended weeks that John Coffee, editor of The Fare Box, was on vacation.

This year that practice did not seem desirable, so we are doing something else instead. In addition to our own regular mailing list of 65 or so members, this news letter is going to about 35 other AVA members, being each Vecturist who was here with us in Los Angeles last month. (As usual, Elaine Willahan gets full credit for the lengthy task of addressing all envelopes.) We hope that you extra readers will enjoy what you find here, and that maybe our bulletin will prompt you to consider enrollment in our CATC to receive other issues bi-monthly. Simply a \$2 remittance to Elaine at 516 W. 99th Street, Los Angeles 90044, will keep you listed as one of us until the end of 1976. And, welcome!

NEW ISSUE: A bulletin like this is always supposed to tell readers of the newest tokens available. Okay, the very latest we have seen is the handsome bronze piece issued by the C.A.T.C. as a souvenir for last month's convention bus ride to "visit the Queen". In case you couldn't be on hand to obtain yours, the description goes something like this:

Calif. 450- Bronze, antiqued. 32 mm diameter/ 2 mm thickness.

Face: American Vecturist Association emblem, encircled by 25th ANNUAL CONVENTION *
LOS ANGELES * AUGUST 1975 *

Reverse: Good For Round Trip Bus Ride/ to the/ QUEEN MARY (+ picture of ship)/
Anchored in the Port of/ Long Beach, California

A total of 500 pieces were struck, plus one only in sterling silver for the annual Literary Award presentation. A rather good looking token, your editor thinks. But maybe that is because he did the design and final artwork himself!

At any rate, if you did not get one in Los Angeles and if you are not a member of the New Issues Service, the CATC still has a limited number for direct sale. The catalogue price is to be \$2.50, representing the cost of our charter bus, and we ask an extra 25c for packing and mailing. (They are heavy!) Any orders for two or more will be sent by insured mail at no extra cost. Just write to ELAINE on this.

CONVENTION Where can we begin? Last month's annual convention of the A.V.A. under our **HIGHLIGHTS:** club's sponsorship turned out to be so many-sided and so much larger than ever before in the Association's history, that it is difficult to start a simple description. Maybe the best summary is in a recent letter from FARE BOX editor John Coffee, where he says in part, "...certainly the finest convention we ever had... one that we will talk about for years to come". Your host committee likes that!

The turnout ran a full 50% above any previous attendance, for a total of 110 paid registrations. Two out of three were A.V.A. members, with the remainder as family guests or non-member collectors. From a different count, 80% of the attendees signed in for the complete span, with only 20% choosing the new "one day" option.

Space here will not permit a listing of everyone, or even of the 72 Vecturists on hand. Probably the next FARE BOX will include that news. These folks came from no less than 25 states and provinces. Of course California led the list, with 49 registrants. Next was Colorado with seven, then Illinois for six, New York and Texas at five each, Massachusetts and Ohio with four apiece, and three from both Florida and Indiana. Two each came from Arizona, Arkansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Nova Scotia, Quebec and the state of Washington, and finally a single visitor apiece from Alaska, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin.

The swap sessions, with their innovative member-dealer bourse tables, were in a constant state of excitement, as finds were discovered and deals consummated. One of AVA's better known past officers, who himself had one of only ten available tables, urged that this new plan always be continued hereafter. The tokens offered were not limited to transportation items, as anything classified as exnumia was welcomed. In keeping with this trend, the annual souvenir kits contained not only the special bus token described earlier, but also little packs of six wooden nickels made especially for the occasion and personalized in the names of six participating Vecturists. Each kit further included a new souvenir mirror, made with our 25th convention logo by EM Creations, plus numerous illustrated bits of transportation interest.

The annual banquet drew 85 for an excellent buffet. It included the installation of Joel J. Reznick, Mt. Prospect, Ill., and Robert R. Kelley, Mason, Ohio, as president and vice president for the ensuing two-year term. Mr. Reznick announced that next year's conclave would be at St. Louis, Mo., with Carson City, Nev., chosen for 1977. Further spots under consideration are Nashville, Tenn., 1978; Lincoln, Nebr., 1979; and Louisville, Ky., 1980. Reznick re-appointed John Coffee as the editor, Sidney White as curator, and named "yours truly" as chairman of a new committee to handle the AVA Tribute Fund. (You'll be hearing lots more about this fund soon.) Syd Joseph is now the immediate past president.

Entertainment for the evening was brought by William Myers, company historian for Southern California Edison, thru an excellent movie he produced about Mount Lowe, a one-time local tourist attraction of real importance. Myers declined to take a stand on the frequently discussed validity of the Mount Lowe transportation tokens. However the consensus was that these pieces were conceived by an outsider, but later legitimized by some actual use on the mountain resort's mule train. Valid or not, a set of the four controversial pieces brought the fancy total of \$49.50 in that afternoon's floor-and-mail auction.

For many visitors our Sunday morning jaunt to the "Queen Mary" in Long Beach was a true highlight of the entire meeting. We had 74 guests for the trip, using two charter buses. The ship is vast almost beyond description, with practically an unlimited number of viewpoints offered for our inspection. Although our party spent four full hours on board, the outing was much too short, according to several responses that we heard.

The final session of a busy week was our "encore" meeting, staged during the actual run of the American Numismatic meet that immediately followed ours. At this program, Ralph "Curly" Mitchell, western representative of The Franklin Mint, and Kenneth Smith, our own noted cataloguer of foreign transportation pieces, combined to present a fascinating tale about George Francis Train, an early American transportation engineer, industrial promoter and would-be statesman. This hour-long gathering at the Marriott Hotel drew about fifty adults. At least two-thirds of the listeners were non-Vecturists, including some who learned about our collecting interests and our club operations for the first time.

TOKEN TOPICS

November 1975
Issue #58

of the
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

ROBERT RITTERBAND
Editor

FOR THIS MONTH: A number of years ago our club fell into a pattern of holding its final meeting of each year at the Ritterband home in Los Angeles. So here we go again! Sunday afternoon, November 16, is the date, and the customary 1:30-to-4:30 is the time. Once again, that address is 6576 Colgate Avenue, in the West Wilshire district, and the phone is 938-4504. If this is a "first" for you, know that Colgate runs parallel to Wilshire Boulevard, but about a half-mile north. The house is approx midway between Fairfax Ave. and La Cienega Blvd. See you there? Remember that there will be lots of fellow collectors on hand--- willing, wanting and waiting to swap tokens with everyone and in every category.

ELECTIONS: Another tradition of the November meetings is the selection of new club officers for the ensuing year. A pair of our current hard-workers state that they would be willing to go around once more: Elaine Willahan as secretary, and Andrew Crusen as treasurer. Not so the Prez, who wants "out" for now. He insists that seven times over a dozen years should be enough for any guy! So we need a new president for '76. Or if our current vice prez, John Barnes, becomes advanced one notch, then what we really need is a new vice president. (The outgoing president remains on our Executive Board for one year, as its fifth voting member.)

Anyway, please come to the meeting prepared to give this subject some of your best thought. And above all, let it be known loudly if you are at all inclined to serve.

IN SEPTEMBER: For our last meeting the club was privileged to try a new locale. It is not new in the sense of being just built, but instead newly acquired by our hosts, John and Virginia Barnes. After many years of apartment living, these nice people have a home of their own, warmly comfortable and beautifully situated. The foothills of Sherman Oaks is the location, and certainly not a bit hard to find..... after you've once been there!

Members who managed not to get lost on Sunday, Sept. 21, included: Steve Alpert, Andy Crusen, Les Hawthorne, Bob Kubach, Art Lee, Jim Manning, Phil Pearson, Bob Ritterband, Ken Smith, Kirk Smith, Elaine Willahan, and of course the Barnes duo. Also we had three family guests: Molly Ritterband, Bertha Rogers and Eleanor Smith. John and Virginia promised we might all come back another time soon, so keep that in your thinking for next year.

CLUB LOSS: Since last we were all together, your officers have learned with dismay of the sudden demise of a cherished member, Edward Cutler. A few years ago Eddie decided to discontinue collecting, and afterwards seldom attended any of the monthly meetings. For our recent convention here, he was among the early registrants, but then felt inclined to stay only briefly during the daytime sessions.

For these reasons, a number of our newer members were not acquainted with this quiet gentleman. Yet he ranks as one of the foursome who founded this club in 1957, and he served for a while as our president. His A.V.A. membership began in 1956, and he had long since converted to Life membership. Eddie attended most of the A.V.A. conventions then, and built many warm friendships with Vecturists of other places.

In memory of this pioneer, a club contribution has now been made to the Tribute Fund of A.V.A., so that his name will be perpetuated even longer in our ranks. Individual members wishing to make this same gesture are asked to be in touch with Ritterband, either at the coming meeting or some other time at their convenience.

A FEW LEFT: In our previous bulletin (and in a recent "Fare Box"), mention was made of some "Queen Mary" tour tokens still available for distribution. Not very many then, and there are far fewer now! Orders from Vecturists all over the country really poured in to Secretary Elaine. So, any CATC member who was unable to get to the convention, or even those who were there and want extras, would be smart to place their orders now while they can still be filled. The price is \$2.75 each, which is straight catalog plus two-bits extra for the mailing. Any orders for two or more will be shipped to you insured.

Regarding the equally-popular souvenir mirrors, there are almost too few left to talk about. No doubt the tiny handful remaining will be gobbled up by smart members in attendance at this month's meeting. Just one more reason for YOU to show up, right? The mirrors are priced at \$1.50 each, again with a quarter extra if we do mailing.

PROFITS? Speaking of these remaining assets brings to mind an unanswered question about the conclave we staged. Many members, local and otherwise, have asked if CATC ended up on the "plus" side financially. Yes, we did. There were a modest number of bucks left over when all the bills had been paid. Though we gave attendees a many-sided registration package for a reasonable price, we still ended up in the black. Remember that much was donated to the committee, and also that we had a turnout about 50% greater than any previous A.V.A. gathering.

Right now we want to report that, with unanimous approval at the last club meeting, your Executive Board has made a generous donation from these surplus receipts to the A.V.A. Tribute Fund. This fund (also referred to on the previous page) has been quietly accepting contributions from thoughtful members and groups for the past four years in honor or memory of various members and events. It is planned that on some day in the future the A.V.A. Board will authorize a worthwhile new publication, pre-paid by this accumulated money. Surely such would lengthen the honorable intentions of the combined donors. Everyone is urged to keep this program firmly in mind.

TOKEN HOARDING: A couple of different news stories emphasize that all transportation token collectors are not vecturists. In last month's "MONEY" magazine, it was reported that numerous alert New Yorkers made short-term profits of 43% in September. Their method was very simple. They merely ignored the claim of the local authorities that new tokens would be issued when bus and subway fares went up from 35c to 50c. Instead they hoarded. Then when the old tokens were kept in use, the hoarder's profits were automatic. Apparently they decided that the size of the fare increase would be barely enough to pay the higher operating costs of the system, and surely couldn't also pay for new tokens, fare box conversions, and so on.

Then a "COIN WORLD" story two weeks ago seems to indicate that plenty of Sacramento folks must be reading Money magazine. It says that token users in our state capitol city are now busy hiding away hoards of tokens, in anticipation of a fare increase there way off in next July. Transit management wishes they wouldn't be so premature, because local supplies are becoming exhausted and more pieces had to be ordered. (Could this become a "new issue"?). The officials admit that the same tokens will continue to be used after the increased fare goes into effect, but point out that the same money put into a bank account could at least draw good interest.

But certainly not 43%, y'know!

TOKEN TOPICS

January, 1976
Issue #59

of the
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

JOHN M. BARNES
Editor

JANUARY MEETING: On Sunday, January 18, 1976 at 1:30 P.M., all of you lucky people are again going to have the opportunity to visit the fascinating home of Elaine Willahan, 516 West 99th Street in Los Angeles. Don't forget: take the Century Blvd. offramp from the Harbor Freeway. Elaine's home is on the west side of the freeway. If you haven't had the chance to personally visit a meeting before, you are going to be surprised at the amount of wheeling and dealing that goes on. This editor credits CATC as the major influence on the size of his trade token collection....and finds that he has a week of work to catalog the new additions after each meeting.

LAST MEETING: Our November 16 meeting was held at the home of Bob Ritterband. Attendance consisted of Stephen Alpert, Roland Atwood, John Barnes, Virginia Barnes, Andrew Crusen, Les Hawthorne, Robert Kubach, Steve Lipshie, James Manning, Phillip Pearson, Robert Ritterband, Kenneth Smith, George Ticknor, and Elaine Willahan. Our welcome guest was Molly Ritterband, who also provided delightful refreshments for all present. We held annual elections for officers of the Association, with the following results: President-John M. Barnes, Vice President-Robert Carter, Secretary-Elaine Willahan, Treasurer-Andrew Crusen. Robert Ritterband, immediate past president, remains as a member of the executive board of directors. All of the new officers hope that throughout the new year they will be able to contribute even more than ever to the improvement of our Association. And, thanks to Bob Ritterband for his work in 1975 and the wonderful AVA Convention.

MEMBER'S DEATH: It came as quite a shock to your editor that Maurice Gould, numismatist and member of CATC, had died on November 29, 1975 at UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles. It is hard to imagine a person so vigorous in his devotion to numismatics; Coin World of December 10 contains an excellent article giving details of his many contributions. Your editor gratefully remembers many pleasant conversations with Maury, the many times that he was master of ceremonies for numismatic gatherings, and a very useful book written jointly with Lincoln W. Higgle: The Money of Puerto Rico (Whitman Publishing Company, 1962). Most of the items listed in this catalog are tokens. Historical notes on their history are plentiful, and the book is enjoyable to the numismatist even if nearly everything in it is in the "rare" category. I think of this written work as a fitting and lasting memorial to a fine man.

GREETINGS: Yes, greetings from your new president. I would like to take a few sentences here to talk with you in the privacy of your home. We have a great organization in CATC, and I would like to help to make it even better....if that's possible. That's why I'm asking for your help. If you have anything, for instance, that you would like to see in print in Token Topics, be sure to let me know. While I do, out of sheer personal vanity, welcome the opportunity to pass out my own views on token collecting in my fractured syntax, I think that a literary production of this sort should express the views of all of the group. Thinking further along the same line, if any of you have ideas to improve the functioning of our group, please let me know. I'm definitely not a booster of giant numismatic organizations, but believe that there are many constructive things that we can do with our own little one. How about it?

DUES ARE DUE: Maybe I erred in not putting this on the front side of this sheet; but anyhow, you stand reminded. If you haven't already paid, the fee is just \$2.00 annually. Cheap enough? Just like 1946. So that our treasury will stay in good condition, why not send off your check right now to Mrs. Elaine Willahan, Secretary, 516 West 99th Street, Los Angeles, Calif. ZIP 90044.

VISITOR: Bob Ritterband advises that he had the pleasure over the Christmas holiday of receiving a telephone call from our out-of-state member Floyd "Tex" Barnett. Floyd advised that he and his wife were in Los Angeles for a five-day visit to see their son, who is a graduate student at UCLA. Let's hope that Floyd's next visit to the Los Angeles area from his home in Minneapolis will coincide with a CATC meeting.

NEW MINIBUS: Again from Bob Ritterband: The downtown Los Angeles Minibus, like an amoeba, is dividing itself into two lines which cross each other in a rough "X" shape and take in more territory. We downtown workers have come to rely heavily on this subsidized convenience, most particularly to get to the better restaurants at lunchtime. Also, much to my surprise, a similar system has opened in Westwood Village (of course, after Virginia and I moved away from Westwood!). The latter system will be particularly useful to UCLA students with parking problems. Perhaps one of our more enterprising members can "sell" the RTD on special Minibus tokens. For the benefit of out-of-state members: The Minibus systems cater to daytime shoppers, arrive at a frequency of seven minutes apart, and cost only ten cents fare to ride.

SAMBO'S: On a recent business trip I stopped for coffee at a new Sambo's branch just north of the San Fernando Valley on Highway 14. When I looked at the menu, I found that coffee was twenty cents. When I asked about this price, I was informed that the increase was effective sometime in November, 1975. I was also advised that all outstanding tokens would be honored, even when they specified that coffee cost only a dime. Seems like everyone who collects Sambo's tokens has had the value of his tokens doubled overnight!

STATE GUIDES: One attractive aspect of the editor's job is that he can assist in spreading information which will be helpful to all collectors. Of course, all of us are dependent on the written word to make our collecting meaningful, and knowledge of any written resource-old or new-can be of considerable assistance. Along this line, I would like to commend to your attention the American Guide Series. The State Guides, as they are more commonly known, were the happy result of a sizeable subsidy channeled to out-of-work writers through the Federal Writers' Project of the (Roosevelt era) Work Projects Administration. The information in the series is relevant to the late 1930's, and therefore is particularly helpful to the token collector. Individual guides exist for all of the then 48 states, two territories, and a number of large cities and major regions. Each guide is organized along the lines of a group of road tours, which take in all of the major cities and many of the very minor towns in each state. Careful comments are made on the history, economy, landmarks, and geography of each identified location. The trade token collector, in particular, will be delighted to have a more intimate knowledge of the locale of his tokens. The Guide series is no longer readily available; some of them are even fairly expensive collector's items in themselves. Should the collector need them, a first class public library is probably the place to go. From an aesthetic point of view, it is certainly nice to read about the United States when it was a less hurried place.